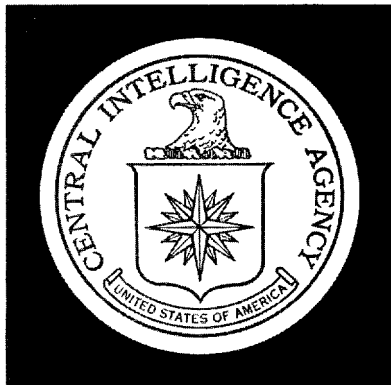



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Indonesia: [President Sukarno continues to spar with his adversaries in what seems to be his final round.]

[Under mounting pressure to resign or else face dismissal by Congress and probable trial, Sukarno apparently is exploring all possibilities open to him. He is variously reported to have agreed to resign, to have refused to resign but to be planning to leave the country, to have offered a compromise to General Suharto, and to be planning to stay on and resist to the end. Apparently he hopes to stall for time, confuse his enemies, encourage his friends, and salve his pride. The pressures now are so great, however, that he might capitulate at any moment.]

[In East Java, the locale of Sukarno's principal strength, the army believes there will be no trouble if the President resigns before Congress convenes in March. Should Sukarno be deposed through some form of congressional action, however, East Java officials fear resistance in Surabaya, the provincial capital, from marine and police units. The deputy provincial commander believes the army could suppress any opposition within one week.]

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*USSR-Turkey-US: [The Soviet Government claims it would be obliged "to use all available means" to prevent the entry today of a US destroyer into the Black Sea.]

[Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Semenov told the Turkish ambassador yesterday that his government considers the USS Hawkins, armed with antisubmarine rockets (ASROC), a threat to Soviet security and pressed Ankara to deny the ship passage. Semenov evidently posed no objection to the passage of a second, conventionally armed destroyer accompanying the Hawkins.]

[At issue is a test of US right to use of the high seas and of Turkey's obligation to enforce the provisions of the 1936 Montreux Convention limiting Bosphorus transit to minor warships. Last summer, at Turkish request, the US Navy substituted a smaller destroyer when the Soviets protested the passage of a guided-missile frigate. Ankara this time took the stand that the Hawkins' weapons are defensive in nature and granted permission to the two destroyers to pass through this morning. The ships, delayed by heavy snowstorms and poor visibility, will enter the Bosphorus as soon as the weather lifts.]

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NOTE

Poland-Vatican: The current visit to Poland of the Vatican's top negotiator with Communist countries, Monsignor Casaroli, signals a new stage in the church-state thaw which began with the opening of a dialogue in late December. Casaroli's visit is probably designed to review the progress of the church-state talks in Poland, and to prepare ground for a possible meeting between Pope Paul and Polish chief of state Ochab during Ochab's scheduled visit to Rome this spring. Although both the Vatican and the Polish regime are interested in some form of bilateral accord, any move toward negotiations will depend on the progress of the domestic church-state dialogue.

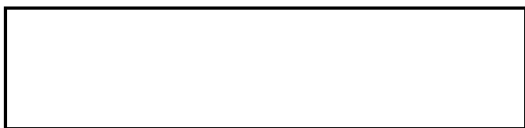
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